

Remarks

Claims 40-47, 50-54 and 62 were considered in the Office Action of June 19, 2003. Claims 40-41, 43-47, 50 and 52-53 were allowed, while claims 42, 51 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and claim 62 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Applicants amend claims 44, 50 and 62 herein to correct dependency, and add claims 131 (which is identical to claim 50, but depending from claim 42 or 43), 132 (identical to claim 52, but depending from claim 131), 133 (identical to claim 53, but depending from claim 131) and 134 (which is identical to claim 62, but depending from only claim 50). In addition, Applicants have amended claim 42 and 43 for clarity. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim 42, 51 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the term “may” in claim 42 was said to be vague. Applicants have amended claim 42 to delete this term and to refer to a “mammalian expression vector” as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended claim 43 to be consistent with the amendments made to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 51 and 54 were said to be vague and indefinite because they depended from claim 42, by way of claim 50, but were inconsistent with claim 42 inasmuch as claim 42 is drawn to a mammalian expression vector. In response, Applicants have amended claim 50 to remove claim 42 as a further dependency. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 51 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 62 was objected to as being a multiple dependent claim depending from another multiple dependent claim. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 62 has been amended to depend from claims 51-54. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been obviated and request that it be withdrawn.

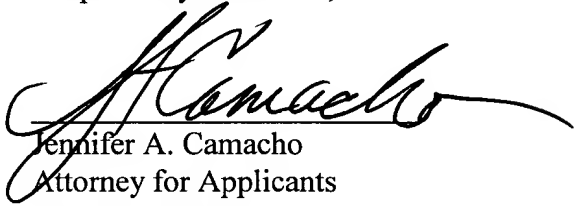
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Date: _____

9/18/03
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Respectfully submitted,


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